

# NEWS RELEASE

## DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

### Commissioner Claire DeMatteis

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Presented by **Jason P. Miller, Chief of Communications and Community Relations**

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## Monroe B. Hudson, Jr. Sworn in as Department of Correction Commissioner

**DOVER, Del.** – Monroe B. Hudson, Jr. took the oath of office Thursday as the 10th Commissioner of the Delaware Department of Correction (DOC) during a ceremony in the Department's Steven R. Floyd, Sr. Training Academy in Dover. He was joined by Governor John Carney, former DOC Commissioners, state officials, family, friends, and colleagues. Hudson succeeds Commissioner Claire DeMatteis who was appointed by Governor Carney in June to a statewide leadership position overseeing federal stimulus funding and crisis management projects. [Governor Carney nominated Deputy Commissioner Hudson as the DOC's next Commissioner](#) on June 4 and [the Delaware Senate voted unanimously to confirm his appointment as Commissioner](#) on June 23.

"Outgoing Commissioner Claire DeMatteis has done an incredible job leading the Department of Correction and that success is based on putting the right people in place, the officers, correctional staff, and leadership team, and giving them the resources and training they need to accomplish their incredibly important mission," **Governor John Carney said.** "That's why I also surround myself with smart and capable leaders, leaders like Commissioner Monroe Hudson. He has my unwavering support. He has the support of the General Assembly and our statewide leadership team, and I know he has the support of the men and women of the Department of Correction that will enable him to be successful. Thank you, Commissioner Hudson for your willingness to take on this very challenging position. We know you're ready and we look forward to your service."

"The Department of Correction is at the forefront of our state's work to protect our communities and forge a brighter law-abiding future for individuals who have committed crimes," **Commissioner Monroe B. Hudson, Jr. said.** "It is at times the most difficult job in public service, but also one of the most rewarding careers. The Department of Correction will continue to be laser focused on achieving our dual mission of public safety and offender rehabilitation through innovative treatment and training programs, strong support for our officers and staff, and collaboration across our Department and state government and with community-based supports that keep reentrants on the road to success."

Commissioner Hudson recognized former Commissioner DeMatteis for her strong leadership and proud legacy of safety, innovation, and strength. He recognized all DOC employees for

working each day in difficult and often dangerous environments with a “can do” attitude and by working together as a team to implement new programs particularly during the challenges and disruptions of the COVID-19 pandemic. Commissioner Hudson outlined his priorities for the state’s largest law enforcement agencies, which include:

- **Recruitment and retention.** With the strong support of Governor Carney and the General Assembly DOC salaries are higher, training is better, and a career ladder provides more opportunities for growth and advancement. Additionally, the passage of House Bill 80 puts probation officers and correctional officers in a pension plan comparable to state and local police agencies. These advances will help the DOC navigate the current national headwinds in law enforcement recruitment.
- **Safety, security, and employee wellness.** DOC will continue to invest in the best training, proper tools and the latest equipment to perform their jobs safely and efficiently each and every day.
- **Expanding community outreach and stakeholder engagement.** DOC will expand upon the recently-established Citizen’s Academy and Insider Webinar Series by establishing an Honorary Wardens program, coffee with a probation officer, and additional initiatives to educate the public, deepen their understanding of DOC programs, and build trust.
- **Offender vocational training.** DOC’s next step to drive reentry success is an expanded focus on teaching trade skills and knowledge to help offenders get and keep a job when they leave DOC custody, with a focus on in-demand trades that local employers need right now. This includes a new vocational skills center at James T. Vaughn Correctional Center and a project to bring hands-on training in culinary and the construction trades to Howard R. Young Correctional Institution.
- **Leveraging new technology** to make DOC operations more efficient and improve the ability to make critical data-driven decisions. Through DOC’s state-of-the-art Intelligence Operations Center and 2,600 new cameras installed since 2017 the ability to gather and share intelligence is stronger than ever before. DOC will embrace new technology to conduct analysis across sources of data to help guide staff deployment, make inmate classification and housing decisions, and respond to offender grievances, disciplinary trends and other early warning systems.

Commissioner Hudson has served as [Deputy Commissioner since July, 2019](#) following a distinguished 31-year career at the Delaware State Police where he attained the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. After joining DSP and completing his academy training in 1988 he earned rapid promotions from Trooper to Detective, Corporal, and subsequently Sergeant with an assignment to the Delaware State Police Governor’s Task Force. In 2003 he was promoted to Lieutenant and assigned to the Human Resources Section as the Assistant Director and was later named Director of the Human Resources Section. In 2008 he was promoted to Major and joined the Executive Staff as the Administrative Officer. He was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in 2014 and served until his 2019 retirement from the Delaware State Police and appointment as Deputy DOC Commissioner.